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REASONS FOR THE ABOVE REGULATIONS.

Ques. Why require a parish contribution to the building, firing, premiums, and repairs of the school-houses, in addition to the Government grants?

Ans. As a small earnest of their wish to establish, increase and render permanent such public schools, intended for the education of all the children in the parish.

2. Why endow four schools partially, instead of one central school exclusively, for the poor?

A. 1st. To establish well conducted schools within a mile of each house.—2d. To bring education to the door of 10 free scholars in each of the four quarters, instead of confining it to 24 in one quarter of the parish.—3d. These 24, being the greatest number that could be educated for £30. must either occupy the school twice the time necessary for their education, or leave vacancies, not to be filled by the poor of one quarter of the parish; and in either case, the number educated in each parish would, in 20 years, amount only to 96: where as 50l. applied as above, would in the same time, educate 320 poor children in each parish, and extend the benefits of education equally to all the poor in Ireland.

2. Why submit the schools to the direction of a parochial committee?

A. That the choosing of the situation for each school-house, the choosing or superseding of the masters, and of the free scholars, the repairing of the school-houses, the orderly arrangements of the schools, the education and morals of the scholars, may be entrusted not to the jarring, caprice of the many, but to the discretion of a few judicious and responsible directors.

2. Why are the visitors chosen annually?

A. To keep them always on the alert.

2. Why are they not chosen by the government, but by the clergy of the three churches?

A. 1st. Not by the government, because, from their distance, they cannot distinguish individual merit but through the mist of court influence;

and because of the popular prejudices against even the appearance of sinecure jobs, and monopoly.—2d. The occurrence of the three churches is required, in order to unite all the inhabitants of Ireland, in this grand object, equally interesting to all.—3d. The clergy are the best qualified to choose the most proper visitors, and they are so circumstanced as to know, and check by a new election, any remissness or partiality in the visitors.—4th. The clergy are thereby reminded of their own duty, viz. to follow up the teacher's exertions, by impressing the precepts of morality on the rising generation, at the same time that they are instructing their respective congregations in the peculiar tenets of their own church, and the leading evidences of Christianity.

2. Why subject the schools, the masters, and the parochial committees, to the inspection of visitors, and the exertions of all, to the direction of a supreme committee?

A. To prevent a sinecure neglect in the visitors, to prevent indolence in the teachers, and a consequent relapse of the schools into their present state of torpor, by making the honours and emoluments of every year depend on their respective exertions manifested to the supreme committee by the minuteness of their annual reports, and to submit all their exertions to the direction of the Clergy, the natural superintendants of public education, the natural conservators of the public morals.

SIMPLEX.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

PROFESSING in your useful publication, "*permiscere utile dulci*," I conceive the subject of the following paper not altogether foreign to the purpose of your Magazine, as I feel confident that the practice recommended in it, so far from being confined to the faculty, ought rather to be diffused among society in the most plain and public manner.

In your number for January I perceive with pleasure, some important

remarks on the prevention of Burns and Scalds: remarks, which if properly attended to, might often save the life, and prevent the deformity, distress and misery, so often consequent on such unhappy accidents. I am sorry, however, that it is not always in the power of the tender, the affectionate parent or the most attentive nurse, to save the thoughtless innocent from one of the most melancholy accidents to which it is liable, nor can the steadiest artificer, engineer, or domestic be constantly preserved from the agency of heat. Since then the accident is too often unavoidable, and since medical assistance can seldom be procured at the time it is most necessary, I conceive it will be extremely serviceable to the public in general, that every one be directed to proceed with caution, propriety and steadiness, in a moment of confusion and alarm, and to be made acquainted with the applications, which if instantly resorted to, and continued for a proper time, will quickly relieve the patient from unutterable anguish and perhaps an untimely grave.*

That animals as well as vegetables are naturally impatient of great and sudden changes is universally known, and that great vicissitudes of temperature produce important alterations in the animal economy. The action of a part exposed to extremes of heat or cold, will be deranged, or its life destroyed in proportion to the degree of temperature, the duration or suddenness of application, or the structure of the part exposed. When accidents of this kind happen it will be consequently of the utmost importance to bring about the change from either extreme, with very slow gradations. This indeed is usually observed in cases of danger from exposure to severe cold: the body or part affected is not suddenly heated, but rubbed first with such applications as are coldest (ice or snow are generally recommended) the cold is thus gradually and imperceptibly diminished, or what is

the same, the heat very slowly increased. If likewise an animal be overheated by active exertions, he is not immediately plunged, without danger, into cold water, and even if by accident he were, the most effectual method of preventing any bad consequences from the sudden change, would be to support the temperature by exercise and friction.

It is therefore rather singular that when a part has suffered from the action of heat, or is burned, the same precaution is seldom attended to, but instead of this the very coldest applications are immediately applied. This is indeed the practice people would instantly resort to without reflection, and which they would continue to use, from the temporary ease they would experience by it. They would also be sanctioned in using it by the authority of almost every writer on the subject, since the days of Hippocrates, and by a conviction that almost every other case of the kind, had been treated in the same way. The practice is however decidedly reprehensible, and has been lately abandoned by several very eminent practitioners, two of whom, Drs. Kentish and Kinlake, have long amused the world by their controversies, not respecting the superiority of the plan they follow, but the honour of priority in recommending it: an honour, to which I think neither justly entitled; for I believe it has been long known, that numbers of artizans, who from the nature of their employment, are often affected with burns or scalds, more or less severe, have been in the constant habit of exposing the part to the heat of a fire, as near as they can bear, till the pain be completely removed, which is generally the case, in a few minutes; and that nurses have for ages applied and extolled hot brandy profusely applied, "*for taking out the fire*;" whence it is evident that though their theory be erroneous, their practice is just the same with that of Drs. Kentish and Kinlake; and we also find the good old Heister recommending stimulating applications to burns.

* Slight injuries of this kind will do well in whatever way they are treated, it is where the *vis vitæ* is low, or mortification threatened, that the heating plan will be essentially useful.

Of the stimulating plan I speak, not from any love of theorizing, from any desire of useless innovation, or even

from analogy so strong in its favour; but as I have practically witnessed its superiority over the more common treatment. I earnestly wish it to get a fair trial, and to be made known to every individual who may ever have the misfortune to suffer or witness the tortures of an accident so painful, so distressing; for if the proper practice be not generally known, it can seldom be applied the moment the injury is received, that moment in which it can and will be truly useful by supporting the first excitement, till it be allowed to subside gradually by the gradual diminution of heat; a circumstance of the utmost importance in treating any accident of this kind, to prove the great utility of which, many convincing arguments might be adduced. A few familiar ones will, however, suffice: First, it has been long observed, that if pitch, tallow, wax or resin, in a liquid form, and necessarily hot, fall on any part of the skin, there will be no pain if they be allowed to remain on the part till they become cold, but if rubbed off immediately on falling, great pain will succeed. Secondly, every child has observed, that on plunging the hand or foot into water rather warm, the pain was much greater immediately on exposing the part to the cold, than it was in the water; now the pain brought on in both cases from exposure to the air, is surely not owing to its action, for there is no abrasion of surface, but evidently to the sudden change from heat to cold; another proof of which is, that the pain will still be greater, by removing the hand or foot from very warm to cold water.

Now when a person has the misfortune to receive an injury from excessive heat, either of fire, water, &c. the part ought to be immediately exposed, naked or thinly covered, to the heat of a fire so near as the patient can easily bear, and retained in that situation from ten to thirty minutes, diminishing the heat in proportion to the decrease of pain. During this time and for a few hours after removal from the fire, the part may be covered with thin cloths dipped in hot water, and if the injury be very extensive, the patient should be kept rather warm. This plan of excitement I do not remember to have

seen recommended by any writer: I first took the hint from workmen who used it, after finding other stimulating applications so much recommended, and it was with pleasure I observed its uncommon utility. If, however, the method do not seem quite congenial to the feelings of the patient or attendants, the other stimulating liquors, such as oil of turpentine, spirits of hartshorn, common spirits, or ether, made warm in hot water, ought to be freely applied, if at all convenient. As these, however, are seldom present on the spot where the injury is received, as by evaporation they may often not heat but cool the part, when sparingly or improperly applied, and as fire or warm water are always sure to be present, as their heat can be rendered uniform and easily regulated, and as they are attended with no expence, are they not preferable to the other applications recommended by the advocates for the stimulating treatment?*

It must, however, be admitted, that for the first few minutes it will be productive of additional pain, which might be considerably alleviated for a time, by cooling applications; but this pain, together with the excitement, will soon begin to subside: the vesication, and suppuration will be often prevented; if not, they will be rendered comparatively trifling: all danger of gangrene (mortification) will be completely removed, unless the organization of the part have been entirely destroyed; there will be little danger of contractions, or disagreeable cicatrizations (scars); the distressing rigours generally produced by dashing on cold water, &c. will be prevented

* A jelly of soap, with the addition of a small quantity of pearl ashes, has been long a popular remedy, with what advantage I am not quite clear.

The nature of the burn from oil of vitriol, caustic lee, quick-lime, and such acrid substances as destroy the texture of the body, should be carefully studied, and compared with the destruction of the organization of a part by fire, but this would require a longer paper. If the skin be exposed to concentrated oil of vitriol, wiping it with a dry cloth is the safest remedy, and water the worst application.

and the pain will be less under the above treatment in half an hour after the accident, than in twelve hours continuance of cold applications or useless liniments.*

These are surely advantages which every humane man would wish his fellow-creature to enjoy, when suffering under one of the greatest of human calamities. Great, however, as they are, there is no doubt but the practice has been and will be considerably opposed; the practitioner, long accustomed to use a contrary plan, will not be easily persuaded of its injurious tendency; the tender parent and officious nurse, will guard against innovation, and every consideration will naturally give way to the desire of *present ease*, and the *temporary* removal of severe pain. A consideration of this, however, should not deter us from endeavouring to diffuse a general knowledge of a more rational treatment for an accident so distressing, which, since it cannot, like the small pox, be prevented, ought to be met as if expected, by all who are anxious for their own welfare, or the speedy recovery of a suffering friend.

J. MURRAY, Surgeon.

Church-street, Feb. 26, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

THE several sorts of words that compose a language, have their characteristic and definite features. The minute distinctions amongst these are only discernible by close observation. The same words in various uses of them grammatically, though not philosophically considered, become different parts of speech. Many writers have not evinced a sufficient regard to perspicuity in composition: their ideas have been either obscure, or they have unhappily fallen upon an intricate manner of communicating them. Ellipsis is sometimes so much indulged as to make construction and meaning ambiguous. Sentences are often made so long and complex, that the relations, which words and

phrases bear to each other, are remote and doubtful. As the presentation of objects to the mind, and modes of thinking are various; so every composer has something peculiar to himself, in the order and construction of his sentences. Men eminent for literature, have widely differed on the grammar, etymology, and philosophy of the English language. Hence the original and bold theory of John Horne Tooke, A. M. in opposition to the writings of such famous literary characters as Lowth, Harris, and Johnson.

The English language is a medley derived from various sources. By the fondness of man for abbreviated, written, and especially oral communications; by the taste and refinement of those few learned, who have made the improvement of this language their study, it has by various modernizations departed far from its original form. Hence the difficulty of tracing its etymology. If many of its words are apparently, and few or none of them really synonymous, to know their true meaning, and proper application must be an accomplishment of difficult acquisition.

From these observations it is evident, that a considerable share of capacity in judging and reasoning; that a certain maturity of age, and ripeness of intellect are necessary requisites to proficiency in the knowledge of the English language. It will also follow from the foregoing premises, that in conducting the education of youth, it is an excellent mode by exercise of a simple and introductory kind to set those early to work upon the rudiments of English grammar, who are about to be favoured with a liberal education, or are designed to figure in some public profession. Labour and time are necessary to enable the learner to comprehend that connexion of speech and that accurate analysis of words and sentences which are essential to judicious paring, as well as to that smooth and perspicuous arrangement of ideas in composition, and elocution which will qualify every scholar to move in his own literary sphere with reputation and general utility. To attempt to teach a language grammatically is

* VIDE Kentish on Burns, and several papers on the same subject, in the London Medical and Physical Journal.